CLAIMS

1. A hand-held laser pointer comprising:

(a) a housing having an interior chamber and a longitudinal axis;

(b) a power source disposed within the interior chamber of said housing; and

(c) a laser module disposed within said interior chamber of said housing, said laser module in electrical communication with said power source, said laser module being operable for producing a laser beam, said laser beam being dampened with respect to angular vibration of the housing about at least one axis perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said housing.

2. A hand-held laser pointer comprising:

(a) a housing having an interior chamber and a longitudinal axis;

(b) a power source disposed within the interior chamber of said housing; and

(c) a laser module disposed within said interior chamber of said housing, said laser module in electrical communication with said power source, said laser module being operable for producing a laser beam, said laser beam being passively dampened with respect to angular vibration of the housing about at least one axis perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said housing.

3. A hand-held laser pointer operable for providing a laser beam in a direction defining a longitudinal axis, said laser pointer comprising: (a) a housing; (b) a laser module enclosed within said housing; (c) a power supply enclosed within said housing and in electrical communication with said laser module; (d) a counterweight rigidly attached to said laser module by a bridge, said laser module, counterweight and bridge collectively forming an inertial mass having a center of gravity disposed on said bridge; (e) a gimbal affixed to said housing and said bridge at the center of gravity of said inertial mass, said gimbal pivoting on two intersecting and mutually perpendicular axes; and (f) means for biasing said gimbal-mounted inertial mass to a neutral position with respect to said housing, said biasing means being operable for damping angular vibration between said inertial mass and said housing while enabling said laser pointer to be panned.

4. The laser pointer of claim 3 wherein said counterweight is adjustable towards and away from said mutually perpendicular pivot axes of said gimbal.

5. The laser pointer of claim 3 wherein said means for biasing said inertial mass to a neutral position employs a magnetic field interaction between a magnetic or ferromagnetic first material disposed on the inertial mass and a ferromagnetic or magnetic second material affixed to said housing.

6. The laser pointer of claim 5 further comprising an electrically conductive material disposed between said first material and said second material.

7. The laser pointer of claim 5 wherein said ferromagnetic or magnetic second material is movably mounted to said housing and adjustable towards and away from said magnetic or ferromagnetic first material.

8. The laser pointer of claim 5 comprising range limiting means operable for limiting the range of angular motion of said inertial mass.